

SENATE FILE 183  
BY FLYNN

Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

A BILL FOR

1 An Act permitting the school budget review committee to grant  
2 transportation assistance to certain school districts and  
3 providing for an appropriation.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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S.F. 183

1 Section 1. Section 257.31, Code 1997, is amended by adding  
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 18. a. The committee may grant  
4 transportation assistance aid to a school district from funds  
5 appropriated in this subsection for the purpose of providing  
6 additional funds for a budget year to school districts whose  
7 base year average transportation cost per pupil exceeds the  
8 base year state average transportation cost per pupil. A  
9 district's average transportation cost per pupil for a base  
10 year shall be determined by dividing the district's actual  
11 cost for all children transported in all school buses for the  
12 base year pursuant to section 285.1, subsection 12, less the  
13 amount received for transporting nonpublic school pupils under  
14 section 285.1, by the district's actual enrollment for the  
15 base year, less the shared-time enrollment for the base year  
16 as defined in section 257.6. The state average transportation  
17 cost per pupil shall be determined by dividing the total  
18 actual cost for all children transported in all districts for  
19 the base year by the total of all districts' actual  
20 enrollments for the base year. To be eligible for  
21 transportation assistance aid, a school district shall  
22 annually certify its actual cost for all children transported  
23 in all school buses for the base year not later than July 15  
24 of the budget year on forms prescribed by the committee. The  
25 committee shall prioritize the requests of eligible school  
26 districts ranking the districts by their average  
27 transportation cost per pupil as calculated under this  
28 paragraph, with consideration given to sparsity of population  
29 and geographic size of the district. Within the limits of the  
30 funds appropriated in this subsection, transportation  
31 assistance aid shall be paid to districts in the order of the  
32 priority ranking. Transportation assistance aid for a budget  
33 year for a district is equal to the amount by which the  
34 district's average transportation cost per pupil for the base  
35 year exceeds two hundred percent of the state average

1 transportation cost per pupil for the base year multiplied by  
2 the district's actual enrollment for the base year less the  
3 shared-time enrollment for the base year as defined in section  
4 257.6. The committee shall adopt rules establishing a  
5 procedure for prioritizing requests.

6 Payment for a school year shall be made by September 1 of  
7 the budget year.

8 b. There is appropriated from the general fund of the  
9 state to the department of education for the use of the school  
10 budget review committee, for each fiscal year, the amount of  
11 one million five hundred thousand dollars, or as much thereof  
12 as may be necessary, to pay the transportation assistance aid  
13 to school districts ranked in the highest priority under this  
14 subsection.

15 EXPLANATION

16 This bill appropriates \$1.5 million each year beginning  
17 July 1, 1997, to the department of education for the use of  
18 the school budget review committee to pay transportation  
19 assistance to school districts ranking in the highest priority  
20 of need based on the highest average transportation cost per  
21 pupil for the previous school year and considering sparsity of  
22 population and geographic size of the district.

23 The bill determines a district's average transportation  
24 cost per pupil by dividing the district's actual cost for all  
25 children entitled to transportation services who are  
26 transported in all school buses for a base year, less the  
27 amount received for transporting nonpublic school pupils, by  
28 the district's actual enrollment for the base year, less the  
29 shared-time enrollment for the school year. The state average  
30 transportation cost per pupil is determined by dividing the  
31 total actual cost for all children transported in all  
32 districts for a base year by the total of all districts'  
33 actual enrollments for the base year. The committee shall  
34 prioritize the requests, ranking the districts by their  
35 average transportation cost per pupil, with consideration

1 given to sparsity of population and geographic size of the  
2 district. Within the limits of the funds appropriated, the  
3 committee shall pay transportation assistance aid to those  
4 districts ranked in the highest priority based upon the  
5 criteria listed. Payments to a school district whose average  
6 transportation costs per pupil exceed 200 percent of the state  
7 average transportation cost per pupil shall be equal to the  
8 amount by which the district's average transportation cost per  
9 pupil for the base year exceeds 200 percent of the state  
10 average transportation cost per pupil for the base year  
11 multiplied by the district's actual enrollment for the base  
12 year less the shared-time enrollment for the base year.

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